

# Joint Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2023

## I. WELCOME

The Juvenile Justice Council of Iroquois County held a meeting on Friday, December 8, 2023. The meeting commenced from 10:00 a.m. - Noon in the E.S.D.A. room at the Iroquois County Courthouse in Watseka. Coalition members and potential members were invited by email, social media, and website to attend this meeting either in person or via Zoom. The email invite included a Zoom link.

In-person guests were given a meeting agenda and reminded to sign-in. Barb King, JJC Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and encouraged those in attendance to help themselves to provided snacks, as we are celebrating all of the JJC's efforts and accomplishments this past year. Verbal introductions were heard from both those present at the meeting and those attending virtually.

### **Members present at the meeting were:**

- Barb King - Iroquois County Probation Department, Iroquois County Juvenile Justice Council Chairperson, Law Enforcement Sector Representative
- Jenni McTaggart - Iroquois County State's Attorney Office, DFC Grant Project Coordinator
- Sarah Pree - Iroquois County State's Attorney Office, DFC Grant Communication Campaign and YPE Coordinator
- Taylor - Harbor House, Outreach Advocate, Civic Sector Representative
- Stephanie - Harbor House, Prevention Advocate, Civic Sector Representative
- Stacey Smith - WGFA/WIBK Radio Station Manager, Business Sector Representative
- Clint Perzee - Iroquois County Sheriff, Law Enforcement Sector Representative
- Liz Gibson - Birth to Five Illinois, Regional Council Manager, Civic/Volunteer Sector Representative
- Eric Ceci - Iroquois County Public Health Department Director, Healthcare Sector Representative
- Mary Kay Lavicka - Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Community Outreach Director, Healthcare Representative
- Gina Greene - Clove Alliance, Training and Education Specialist, Other Sector Representative
- Susan Wynn Bence - First Christian Church, Religious/Fraternal Sector Representative
- Sara Christensen - I-KAN Regional Office of Education Truancy, School Sector Representative

- RaDonna Hasselbring - Iroquois County School District #9 School Counselor, School Sector Representative
- Charles Cox - National Guard, Other Organization with Expertise in Substance Abuse Sector

## **II. JJC INFORMATION/GRANT UPDATES**

### **A. Iroquois County Opioid Coalition Update**

King noted that the Opioid Coalition is starting to ramp things up again after being somewhat stagnant for a time. She noted that three individuals (Kim Rabideau - Iroquois Mental Health Center, Jed Whitlow - Iroquois County Board, and Joy Carlson - community member) have stepped up and agreed to begin providing leadership to this coalition.

King stated that a few coalitions were creating brochures that could be given to funeral homes to disperse to their clients with information on how to safely dispose of their loved ones' medications and to hospitals to be sent home with discharged patients. A digital file of such a brochure was shared with members participating via Zoom while physical copies of the brochures were passed around for present members to view. King asked all members if they thought creating such a brochure for Iroquois County would be beneficial. All agreed it would be helpful and saw no reason not to do it, as it would be inexpensive to create. King asked if members liked how the brochures were done. Suggestions for improvement included: making the website larger, including a QR code to link to the Recovery Resource page on our JJC website, and providing a list of the area drop box locations. Sheriff Perzee noted that in addition to the drop boxes at the Iroquois County Courthouse, Iroquois County Jail, and Illinois State Police headquarters in Ashkum, Iroquois Memorial Hospital also has a collection box in their pharmacy and Gilman City Hall will soon be added as another drop box location. Perzee stated that Iroquois Memorial Hospital is the only location that will take syringes now that Iroquois Community Care Services is no longer operational. Sarah Pree will create the brochure as a tri-fold using the Canva design program and the draft will be sent to members for feedback.

Sheriff Perzee stated that a parent had asked him if there are any speakers available to address internet safety on various social media apps. Gina Greene from Clove Alliance shared that Clove can give presentations on internet safety as long as it ties into exploitation or sexual violence in some way. The presentations are based on the age of the group. Greene is presenting in Milford in the spring. She noted that some people worry about the sending of inappropriate photos and the blackmailing that can take place as a result of such pictures. She said they always ask schools what social media platforms (Snapchat, Instagram, Discord, etc.) are being used most by their students. Greene noted that issues often arise when personal gaming chats are changed to a different app that cannot be monitored.

Stephanie from Harbor House stated that she recently did a program on digital abuse in St. Anne. She focused on cyberstalking, etc. on Instagram and Snapchat. Taylor from Harbor House pointed out that Stephanie is an expert at knowing and understanding what today's youth are doing.

All members agreed that a collaboration presented by Clove Alliance and Harbor House on internet safety would be awesome. Chas Cox shared that the National Guard is working on putting together some materials on internet safety. He will look into it and report back to the coalition.

Perzee questioned how to get busy parents from different schools to come together and attend an internet safety presentation. All agreed it is too difficult to do. A suggestion was made to instead, working as a team, post small blurbs (videos that are 30 seconds or less) on this subject on our social media accounts to reach adults. The same information/TIPs from a different aspect could be shared with students, but they are unlikely to check out our websites or Facebook pages. A member noted that small groups at school rather than large assemblies seem to work better on this topic. Clove Alliance and Harbor House could coordinate and tag-team at schools where they are not already presenting to deliver this messaging. Perzee wondered if Adam (county tech support) could assist in putting some of these videos on the docket of the upstairs TV at the Iroquois County Courthouse. Tidbits of information in PSA format could be shared by Clove and Harbor House. We could also put together a source sheet containing information to assist area providers (such as school counselors) in starting important conversations and offering direction where to turn if additional assistance is needed. The group will start working on this now.

#### **B. Iroquois County Sheriff's Drug Take Back Day**

Sheriff Perzee stated that the Iroquois County Sheriff's Drug Take Back Day took place on Saturday, October 28th at the Iroquois County Sheriff's Department in Watseka. He noted that their collection was listed on the DEA's website. In the past, drugs collected during such a take back day were taken to Champaign where they were weighed. However, Perzee shared that we are now partnering with Livingston County to turn in the collected drugs, as they have a vehicle that picks up from area collection locations and takes them to Des Plaines. He stated that he was unsure how many pounds were collected at this time. He reminded all members that they are unable to collect drugs in liquid form.

#### **C. IL MAR Grant Update**

Perzee stated that they currently have 8 people taking part in the jail's MAR (Medication Assisted Recovery) program. He noted that the no cash bail system has negatively impacted the STARR (Sheriff's Treatment and Recovery/Reentry) program. Those participating in the program used to average a 20 day stay. However, under the new system, they now average only a 14 day stay. Inmates come in and go out so quickly that there is not always enough time for withdrawal to set in and the program to be set

up before release. He noted that although we won't know what the new no cash bail system will truly look like until October of next year, we know that it is not working well at this time. He predicts that county residents will be victimized 3-4 times before individuals are actually held accountable.

King reminded the group that IL MAR trainers recommend that opioid coalitions deliver communication campaigns educating the public on opioids, signs of an overdose and what to do if someone overdoses. She stated that a committee had recently met to address creating such a communication campaign to address the opioid situation here in Iroquois County. The committee had brainstormed some possible initiatives and ideas, such as pamphlets, posters, PSA's, etc. She noted that Sheriff Perzee would like to incorporate the sheriff's star into the program and its logo. Perzee stressed that the audience for this campaign is older and does not need a mascot's face associated with the campaign or the STARR program. A suggestion was made to include a shooting star over the badge, as this would tie into the name of the program and be easily recognizable. King added that we want to ensure that the campaign ties back to the jail and reinforces the idea that police are here to help, not just arrest people. Perzee stressed that drugs affect not only justice-involved people, but the family and friends of these individuals, too. This program truly has the potential to change people's lives. He recognized Iroquois Memorial Hospital and the Iroquois County Public Health Department for being great and willing to help because it's the right thing to do. He reminded everyone that the STARR program helps set individuals up to help themselves so that when they are released from jail they can help out their families more. Pree will work on creating a logo draft and sending it to Sheriff Perzee for feedback. The committee plans to meet again in January to continue their brainstorming and develop a more concrete plan.

#### **D. DFC (Drug-Free Communities) Grant Status**

McTaggart shared that the new fiscal year began September 30, 2023 and will end on September 29, 2024.

### **III. YOUTH PREVENTION EDUCATION UPDATES**

#### **A. Too Good for Drugs**

Pree began the Google slide show that accompanied the coalition's meeting discussion. She stated that many schools have begun teaching the Too Good for Drugs curriculum this school year. One class has already completed the program. Some will begin implementing the program during the second semester. Once a teacher has finished teaching the program, we plan to thank them again this year with a \$30 Amazon gift card. Doing so shows the teachers that we truly appreciate them making the time to squeeze this important programming into their busy schedules. McTaggart inquired if Sheriff Perzee was willing to serve as a guest speaker in some of these classrooms. He stated that he would be willing to speak to students about drug use and would like to possibly incorporate some of the people he met at the Clifton Drug Awareness Health Fair in order to make his visit more impactful. McTaggart suggested that Perzee's name

and contact information be added to the Too Good for Drugs Resource page that is provided to the teachers as a resource to reinforce the Too Good for Drugs prevention programming.

#### **B. Life Education Center programming**

McTaggart reported that the JJC is once again partnering with the Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education to bring youth prevention education to K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout Iroquois County. She stated that she is at Chebanse Elementary School this week and the following week. McTaggart shared how exciting it was, as she has not been there with Life Education Center programming in over ten years.

McTaggart said that photos had been taken of I-KAN's Life Education Center's mascot Harold the Giraffe and the JJC's mascot Ollie the Owl next to all school signs throughout the county. These pics are being used in follow-up Facebook posts after Life Education Center visits have taken place at schools. McTaggart said that the posts remind parents to check their children's backpacks for information about the lessons delivered. She noted that students are sent home with the JJC's brochure and medication safety insert. Lessons will resume in the new year in late January at St. John's Lutheran School.

### **V. COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN UPDATES**

#### **A. TIP the Scale Tuesday Celebrities on WGFA/WIBK**

Pree began by saying that the JJC has been blessed with such wonderful partners in prevention. Working together, we have done such a wonderful job of brainstorming, creating, and distributing materials for the TIP communication campaign, that other coalitions and groups around the country have noticed. A group in Virginia emailed and asked if they could use some of our materials to reach the public in their area about underage drinking.

Pree said that the TIP the Scale Tuesday initiative was originally started on Facebook as a way to spread our prevention message and raise awareness about the JJC/TIP the Scale campaign as well as to honor local community members for their efforts in the community. There are so many awesome people in Iroquois County who go above and beyond to make it a great place to raise a family. We ask participating individuals to record themselves sharing their advice to be used for a PSA on WGFA/WIBK. We also post these Celebrity TIPs on our TiptheScale.org website. To date we have featured approximately 135 local celebrities offering advice to area families. Pree asked if anyone had any nominations for possible future celebrities who could be asked.

#### **B. WGFA Hotline Interview**

Pree shared that (JJC Member and Watseka High School Guidance Counselor) RaDonna Hasselbring took part in our last WGFA Hotline Interview on September 22nd. Because September was Mental Health Awareness Month, she spoke about her role as a school counselor, the need to utilize healthy coping strategies rather than turning to

substances that only create additional problems, coping skill examples, and our Toilet Times.

We will again have 4 Hotline Interviews during this new fiscal year. This past year, our 4 hotline interviews were: Bowling Against Bullying Event with Harbor House (Feb.), Prom TIPs for parents with Central's SADD chapter (April), JJC activities at the Iroquois County Fair with Jenni McTaggart (July), and Mental Health Awareness Month/Coping Skills with RaDonna Hasselbring (Sept.). The topics for this year's Hotline Interviews will be determined by initiatives/activities that the JJC plans for the upcoming year. Stephanie from Harbor House volunteered to take part in a February Hotline Interview for the JJC. She noted that Harbor House is hoping to host another bowling event, as this past year's had been very successful in Iroquois County.

### **C. TIP Radio Advertising**

Pree stated that in addition to our Celebrity TIP PSA's playing on WGFA/WIBK, we also have four general ads running. The topics of the four ads are as follows: two general overviews of the JJC, an explanation of the JJC's initiatives, and general prevention advice for parents. We are also sponsoring news and high school sports broadcasts.

The JJC had a special radio PSA run during Red Ribbon Week (RRW) on WGFA/WIBK and WIQI. This ad announced RRW and encouraged everyone to live healthy, happy and drug-free lives. We are planning to run special ads again in April for Alcohol Awareness Month/Prom, May for Graduation, and July for the JJC's Fair Activities.

### **D. TIP PSA Contest**

McTaggart reminded members that the JJC had started discussing hosting a TIP PSA Contest for high school students. We decided to go through an established group at the schools (such as Studio 9, SADD, NHS, etc.) in order to make the initiative more successful and work directly with schools to promote it. Students would be given guidelines (including timing parameters from WGFA) for writing a PSA and a deadline. The winner from each school would get to record their PSA and have it air on WGFA. Rather than advertising the contest on air, it will be advertised through the schools.

When do we want to have this contest? McTaggart stated that Sarah had given her some important upcoming event dates that may play a factor into the timing. February is National Random Acts of Kindness Month. April is Stress Awareness Month, Alcohol Awareness Month and prom time. May is Mental Health Month and graduation time. What should the content/topic of the PSA's be? McTaggart stated that she likes the idea of mental health awareness as healthy coping skills help in underage drug prevention. Members agreed that Mental Health is extremely important, as it ties into so many other issues. Thus, the umbrella topic will be Mental Health and students can base their ads on any connected issue (marijuana use, stress, vaping, etc.) that is important to them. The PSA 's can be aired whenever, as the topic is all-encompassing and not linked to just one month.

Once the contest is announced, students will be given 1 month to write a PSA and submit it. Stacy Smith from WGFA stated that the radio station will need 1 week to put together the PSA's so that they are ready to air.

**E. TIP Stickers featuring Ollie**

Pree reminded members that the JJC designed and purchased 4 versions of stickers featuring Ollie the Owl. We have already used these stickers as prizes at Harvest Daze and Lunchtime Prevention Trivia in Donovan. We will continue to use these stickers at future events and when we visit our Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce Business in Education classroom.

**F. Red Ribbon Week Coloring Contest**

Pree said that the JJC partnered with the I-KAN Regional Office of Education and Pledge for Life Partnership to offer a Red Ribbon Week Coloring Contest featuring the Life Education Center's mascot Harold the Giraffe and this year's theme *Be Kind to Your Mind*. Entry forms were available in the Kankakee Daily Journal and online through the Pfl's, TIP the Scale's, and JJC's Facebook pages. Forms were also emailed to schools. The winners have not yet been announced.

**G. TIP Signs/Banners Distributed during RRW**

Pree shared that the JJC designed both banners for junior and senior high schools and yard signs for grade school and junior/senior high schools. These signs and banners were delivered to all schools the week before Red Ribbon Week with a note asking schools to proudly display them as a daily reminder to students and parents about the importance of making healthy choices.

**H. Drug Awareness Health Fair in Clifton**

Pree stated that on October 25th, the JJC had a booth at the Drug Awareness Health Fair at the old elementary school in Clifton. Sheriff Perzee, area coroners, religious recovery specialists, and substance abuse survivors and family members all spoke during the event. The JJC's table had a laptop that played a slideshow with prevention-related information and provided resources and materials. We debuted our new photo frame magnets with detachable TIP magnets as a giveaway. The magnet was passed around to those in attendance.

**I. Updated TIP Brochures and Rx Safety Magnet Addition**

Pree said that the JJC updated its *Join the Prevention Movement* brochure. More recent photos were included to replace the picture of the Life Education Center unit/van which is not currently being used. In addition, the wording under JJC Student Ambassadors was edited to better reflect how we are working with area students and youth groups to promote prevention. The JJC's Recovery Resource QR code was also added to the bottom of the brochure.

The JJC has a new medicine bottle-shaped magnet that provides both the drop box locations for medication disposal in Iroquois County and TIPs for the safe handling of medications. These magnets are attached to the Rx Safety Inserts that are sent home with every student after Life Education Center visits and distributed at area events. The magnet was passed around to those in attendance.

#### **J. Harvest Daze Booth/Activities**

McTaggart served on a Harvest Daze committee that helped to plan the Kidz Zone led by Susan Wynn Bence. Harvest Daze took place on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The JJC provided the Ollie the Owl costume for a teen volunteer to wear for pictures and dancing with kids during line dance and square dance lessons. Ollie then campused the event handing out stickers with the [tipethescale.org](http://tipethescale.org) website address and Facebook page. We also hosted TIP the Scale Trivia Basketball Pong and assisted in sponsoring a coloring contest which featured Ollie the Owl driving a tractor which was created by our very talented, Sarah Pree. Winners were chosen by judges from the Iroquois County Historical Society and Old Courthouse Museum. Winners were as follows: Family - The Bence Family, Preschool and Younger - Kate, K/1st - Claire, 2nd/3rd - Jada, 4th/5th - Hailey, and 6th/7th/8th - Madelyn. The winners all received certificates and a prize in the mail.

#### **K. Gamma Nu Presentation/New Teacher Bag Donations**

McTaggart stated that Gamma Nu is a professional society for women educators who gather to share their knowledge. McTaggart and Pree attended a local Gamma Nu meeting at Crescent City Grade School on October 11th. McTaggart presented a slideshow for Gamma Nu members about the JJC and its initiatives. McTaggart noted it was fun to share and several Gamma Nu members took notes. Those in attendance were amazed by all that the JJC does in Iroquois County. McTaggart told those attending to let the JJC know if there is anything we can help with or if they need assistance in getting answers, as we work with many knowledgeable partners in our area.

Gamma Nu asked the JJC to provide items that could be included in a welcome bag for new female teachers in the area. We contributed TIP/JJC notepads and our Smarties candy/prevention postcards.

#### **L. Yearbook Ads**

Pree said that yearbook ads have been sent to the four high schools (Cissna Park HS, Central HS, IWHS, and Watseka HS) who allow advertisements in their printings. These will be printed at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.

#### **M. Sports Program Ads**

McTaggart shared that the JJC again advertised in the fall and winter sports programs of the high schools who take ads. This included: Central HS, IWHS, and Watseka HS. An



example of what the JJC receives with this membership is as follows: The Iroquois West Sports Program is called the Tomahawk Club which gives the JJC a ½ page black and white ad in the Winter and Fall Programs, JJC's name on the Ad Board in the concession stand and the JJC name on the Throw-Out T-shirts plus a window decal to display our membership.

**N. School Vehicles/Police Car Magnets**

Pree said that back in 2018, the JJC partnered with both county and local police as well as area schools to promote the prevention of underage alcohol use by placing TIP the Scale logo magnets on the back of police squad cars, school buses, school drivers ed cars, etc. The idea was to raise awareness about the new campaign and encourage parents to start talking with teens about the issue. Since that time, the JJC has updated their logo to include the prevention of other drugs, too. Thus, we thought we should reprint the magnets and reach out to the schools and police to partner again. The new magnets have been spotted throughout the county. Pree pointed out that the photo in the slide show showed the buses outside the Milford School District Office all donning the new TIP magnet. The new TIP logo magnet was passed around to those in attendance.

**O. Old Courthouse Museum Christmas Tree Lane Entry**

Pree noted that Christmas Tree Lane is open at the Old Courthouse Museum in Watseka. The JJC has trimmed a tree featuring our mascot Ollie the Owl according to this year's Christmas Carols theme. *"OWL" be Home for Christmas...Preventing Underage Substance Use!* The tree is filled with nests (homes) offering prevention TIPs for parents and grandparents. Be sure to stop by and view some beautifully decorated Christmas trees and get into the holiday spirit!

**P. Watseka HS Music Dept.'s Christmas Program Ad**

Pree stated that the JJC placed an ad in the Watseka High School Music Department's Christmas Program. It provides TIPs for preventing underage substance use over the holidays.

**Q. Toilet Times (Winter)**

Pree shared that the winter edition of the Toilet Times has been drafted. A copy was passed around to all in attendance. This issue focuses on protecting your game (whatever sport, organization, activity you are involved in) by avoiding underage substance use, reminding readers that the brain continues to develop until the age of 25, providing instructions for practicing 3 different kinds of breathing exercises as a healthy coping strategy. The Resource Recovery QR code that links to a list of resources on the JJC's website is now a permanent fixture at the bottom of the bathroom reader. This draft has been sent to the TIP Communication Campaign Committee for review. Thus far, it has received positive feedback. Unless any suggestions are given for improvement, it will go to print and be distributed to hang in all junior/senior high school bathrooms, youth centers, etc. first thing in the new year.

RaDonna Hasselbring shared with members that a student had mentioned how the current Toilet Times had helped them when they were upset and having trouble breathing. They followed some of the strategies included on the Toilet Times and were able to calm themselves. Hasselbring had shared that our efforts are making a difference. YAY!

**R. WACC Adopt-a-Classroom Initiative**

McTaggart stated that the JJC will continue with the Adopt a Classroom initiative through the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce with Ms. Law's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at Glenn Raymond School. This is Ms. Law's first year teaching in Watseka. She asked that we somehow incorporate math and community service into our lesson. McTaggart and Pree will spend the afternoon of December 18th presenting a lesson and art activity that we created last year for this partnership. We will begin by telling the class about the JJC and how all of its members work together to prevent underage substance use. Then, we will read a story together about a raindrop who dreamed of becoming a snowflake and turning the landscape white. Unfortunately, once he turns into a snowflake, he melts as soon as he hits the ground. He discovers that he must work together with many other raindrops in order to create a BIG snowfall that can cover the ground and achieve his goal. We will then make giant paper snowflakes while discussing shapes. These snowflakes will be donated to a partner agency, such as IMH's nursing home facility to help decorate and bring cheer to the residents during the cold, dark winter days.

**S. WACC Connections Newsletter Ad**

Pree stated that the JJC's yearly membership in the Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce includes 4 free quarterly ads in their Connections Newsletter that is emailed out to all chamber members. Our ad which will be included in the January edition wishes all a Happy New Year and reminds parents to bond with their teens and have important conversations about the harmful consequences of underage drug use and their family's stance on it.

**T. New Ideas????**

McTaggart asked if anyone had any new ideas for the TIP the Scale parent communication campaign. King noted that the JJC is doing an excellent job, as both Harvest Daze and the Iroquois County Fair had reached out to us this past year for our involvement. This proves that the public is seeing what we are doing and taking note.

**VI. YOUTH GROUPS/ACTIVITIES**

**A. Donovan SADD HS/JHS Red Ribbon Week Lunchtime Trivia**

McTaggart reported that Donovan High School's SADD Chapter invited the JJC to put on a Red Ribbon Week Lunchtime Trivia Activity during Red Ribbon Week. Students were given a question pertaining to Red Ribbon Week and underage substance use. After answering they quickly attempted to toss bean bags into a row of buckets (The Grand Prize Game) and collected prizes purchased and distributed by their SADD Chapter's

Chairperson, Kristin Lundquist. McTaggart stated that it was an honor to be there during their Red Ribbon Week festivities as the day of the event's dress-up day was - Anything But a Bookbag day. She said that the students, principals and staff have truly amazing imaginations. She also said that it is very exciting to see the students' faces when they see the activity and who is putting it on as the JJC and SADD group are recognized persons of interest during their lunch hours.

**B. Donovan SADD HS/JHS Great American Smokeout/No Vape November Lunchtime Trivia**

Donovan High School's SADD Chapter invited the JJC back for another round of Lunchtime Trivia on November 16th, the day of The Great American Smokeout. This time students were given trivia questions pertaining to The Great American Smokeout, No Vape November, and Lung Cancer Awareness Month. After answering, students tried tossing a bean bag into a hole on a bouncy Corn Hole board and collected prizes provided by their SADD Chapter Chairperson again, Kristin Lundquist. (McTaggart noted that Lundquist is a retired teacher who continues to tutor at Donovan and sponsor their SADD Chapter.)

**VII. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

**A. KEEP SHOWING UP campaign**

Pre shared that we are once again partnering with I-KAN to promote the *KEEP SHOWING UP. They're still growing up.* state-created campaign that focuses on underage drinking prevention and utilizes posters, postcards, newsletters, and social media posts. Some of the campaign material includes both the TIP and JJC logos.

**B. JAG Transportation Grant**

King stated that the Probation office is the lead agency for the JAG Transportation grant. It is a mileage grant that offers transportation assistance for any justice-involved person. They are currently in the second year of the grant. She noted that JAG struggled to get them up and running in the first year. They are awaiting the arrival of Casey's gift cards. They have \$12,000 to spend and currently have 2 male and 2 female bicycles that can be used to help get justice-involved people to and from work, a treatment program, etc. if they live close.

**C. Milford Community Wellness Program**

Mary Kay Lavicka shared that the Milford School District is in the final year of the grant they received to implement their Milford Community Health and Wellness Program. She noted how excited the JJC, IMH/Robinson Chiropractic, and Clove Alliance are to partner again to assist, as this programming allows us to get in front of students in a different format - a more fun atmosphere. We are expanding into the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and have been asked to put together interactive ventures so that their students are more likely to engage.

On January 17th, all of these groups will take part in a Round Robin style of presentations to small groups of 6th-8th grade students. IMH/Robinson Chiropractic will

present a posture is power event, Clove Alliance will put on a Boundaries presentation, and the JJC will host a *You're a-MAZE-ing...Your Choices Matter!* gameshow-style competition focusing on vaping. The Milford School District is purchasing maze pens that we will give to the students taking part in our gameshow competition to remind them how special they are and that they need to strive to make good choices. The pen will also include our TIPtheScale.org website.

On February 2nd, the JJC will present on coping skills with all Milford High School students. We will teach about the importance of utilizing healthy coping strategies rather than underage substance use to deal with life's stresses. We will demonstrate and practice many of these strategies with the students. These students will also receive a maze pen as a healthy coping strategy at the end of the presentation.

On March 12, Milford School District plans to host an evening parent event called Parent University. They have lined up the Iroquois County Public Health Department's Hidden in Plain Sight exhibit to be present for parents to tour. They are in the planning stages and still deciding the other topics on which they will focus. Erin Watts is welcoming all agencies who want to have a booth at this event.

## **VII. AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. **Birth to Five** (Liz Gibson) - Birth to Five has an Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Health Needs Survey based on the mental behavioral health services, support, and resources in OUR community. Feedback from the survey will be used in upcoming Birth to Five Illinois Action Council and Family Council meetings and shared with state agencies to help them better understand the mental and/or behavioral health needs of families, caregivers, and communities. The survey is posted on Birth to Five Illinois: Region 32 (Kankakee & Iroquois Counties)'s social media. Please complete the survey and share with others! Parents of younger and older kids can ALL take the survey. Liz will send the link to Barb King to share with all JJC members. Here is the link: [bit.ly/mbh\\_survey23](http://bit.ly/mbh_survey23)
- B. **National Guard** (Chas Cox) - The National Guard is waiting for new funding and budgeting to be passed. Cox promises to share resources with the JJC as they become available. He will also update us on the potential social media presentation discussed earlier.
- C. **WGFA/WIBK** (Stacey Smith) - WGFA/WIBK is excited to continue partnering with the JJC. They have prepped several new celebrity recordings that have recently come through.
- D. **Harbor House** (Taylor) - Harbor House is hosting a FREE Domestic Violence Community Training featuring Mark Wynn (Retired Police Lieutenant and survivor of domestic violence) at the Watseka Elks Lodge on December 14th. Lunch is provided. Although it is a day-long training event, they encourage the public to attend even if they

can only do so for a portion of the day. They want as many to attend as possible, so spread the word. Mark Wynn will be in Kankakee County the day prior to air his video.

- E. **Harbor House** (Stephanie) - Harbor House is starting to look ahead and plan events for February Teen Dating Violence Month. Please let her know if Harbor House can be a part of any upcoming activities or events. Stephanie is hoping to get in with NHS groups and the like at schools. She will be seeking help from JJC members in contacting the sponsors of these organizations. Stephanie recently presented information at a meeting for area counselors. She gave 21 presentations in November.
- F. **Iroquois County Public Health Department** (Eric Ceci) - Eric shared that opioid overdose death statistics have recently become available. In 2023, there have been 4 opioid overdose deaths in Iroquois County to date. There were 5 in 2022.

The Iroquois County Public Health Department still distributes Narcan and can do quick group training on its use. ICPHD is updating their I-PLAN in January. It is a five year plan that looks at where they were and where they want to go. They will be gathering feedback and will need other agencies to share their public surveys. Vaccines are available at ICPHD.

- G. **Iroquois Memorial Hospital** (Mary Kay Lavicka) - Iroquois Memorial Hospital has been very busy distributing flu vaccines. They are fundraising for a transport ambulance. IMH is able to care for most patients, but does need to transfer some. Riverside reduced their availability for transport and is mainly answering 911 calls. IMH is making expansions in gynecology, urology, and behavioral health. They are looking to partner with St. Mary's in cardiology.
- H. **I-KAN Truancy** (Sara Christensen) - Truancy continues to be an issue, but they are working on it. Although I-KAN Truancy has a strong team, they have little legal backing. They are working with schools to promote a Spirit Week at the end of January to combat the winter blues and encourage students to attend school.

They are in the process of restructuring programs to provide emotional support and parent education in the home. They want to be seen as a SUPPORTIVE service. Christensen stressed that kids need to be made uncomfortable at home when skipping school in order to get them to want to attend. They remind parents that when kids attend school, they get two free meals a day and this can lessen the financial burden on a family.

- I. **Clove Alliance** (Gina Greene) - Clove is busy wrapping up the year. In January, they are hosting a training on *Human Trafficking - Familial Trafficking* given by a survivor. Details on the event will be shared after Christmas.

Greene shared they have been thinking about parenting and prevention. Kids need to view what is being taught to them as empowerment, not just fear. Parents want kids to trust them and talk to them.

- J. **Watseka School District** (RaDonna Hasselbring) - Clove will be coming in soon to Watseka High School to present to small groups of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.

Their Grab and Go Pantry at the school provides food, clothes, and supplies to students. Students take what they need under a *No Questions Asked* policy. A sorority supplies the food and toiletries needed. Students are welcome to come in and take little things they need, such as a snack, backpack, feminine products, etc.

- K. Susan Wynn Bence - Toys for Tots is tomorrow at The Depot. They have had more families call in requesting to take part and they do not turn anyone away. The Watseka Kiwanis collected socks for kids and gave them away to those in need.

Susan is running for State Senate and will be recording some commercials for her campaign. She is planning to mention that she was a founding member of the JJC and has served the coalition for many years.

- L. **Iroquois County Sheriff's Department** (Sheriff Clint Perzee) - The Sheriff's Department is providing an ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Training on January 18th-19th at Trinity Church in Watseka. This two day training teaches individuals what to do in an emergency situation, such as when there is an active shooter, violent intruder, mass shooting, terrorism, workplace violence, and other unexpected tragedies. The cost to take part in the training is somewhat costly.

The sheriff's office is growing. They have one deputy in the academy and hope to hire a lateral in January. They now have adequate backup on the night shift. They have contracts with Gilman, Cissna Park, and Buckley. Loda wants to also do a contract. Sheriff Perzee is very pleased with the officers he has and is hoping to get in the community more.

## **IX. MEETING ADJOURNED**

Our next meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 8th, 2024. Some members have expressed that Friday meeting dates are difficult to make. Moving forward into the new year, we will keep this in mind when choosing future meeting dates. King will send out the next meeting date (3/8/24) with the minutes. King reminded members that both full JJC and committee meeting minutes will continue to be shared via email. Full JJC meeting minutes are also posted on the TIPtheScale.org website. King asked those present to pose for a quick group photo and help themselves to the provided celebratory snacks.

Meeting adjourned.